



Word from our Chairman.



Welcome to our Newsletter for 2017.

The branch is approaching its ninth birthday and is now a well-established and respected corporate citizen of the Macedon Ranges.

To our foundation shareholders, thank you for your vision and faith in backing the establishment of our branch. To our more recent shareholders welcome, and thanks

for supporting our company that in turn benefits the community we live in, in so many ways! Macedon Ranges Community Enterprises Ltd is now paying a sound dividend return in addition to significant community investments across a broad spread of activities within our community.

There have been a number of changes in the branch since our last newsletter and our Annual General Meeting in November 2016. We welcomed Jane Lincoln as our new Branch Manager in March, Sarah Barton has returned from maternity leave and other staff have changed job descriptions. On behalf of Directors, I thank all our staff for their efforts over the past 12 months. They are a great team and continue to deliver excellent customer service to our clients.

Over the past year the Gisborne & District **Community Bank**[®] Branch has transitioned through a revised revenue sharing arrangement with Bendigo Bank. While this has altered our income streams it has had a marginally positive effect on our share of revenue. I am pleased to report our business footings now exceed \$150 million, and our cash reserves (including funds held on our account at the Community Enterprise Foundation™) now exceed shareholder funds. Our business pipeline is steady and Directors see no reason why our business will not continue to grow and prosper despite difficult trading conditions experienced across the banking sector at present.

As a result of continued profitable trading and a sound financial position, your Directors are pleased to announce a fully-franked dividend of 7 cents per ordinary share for the year ended

30 June 2017, to be paid late November 2017 to all shareholders who were registered at 5.00pm on 31 July 2017.

Your Directors conducted a company review session in May and are currently refining our policies to address the fact that the company has moved from its establishment phase to a more mature and well-established local business. You will have observed a number of community investment announcements in local media. I would encourage you to follow Gisborne & District **Community Bank**[®] Branch on Facebook to keep abreast of the latest investments. Some to note are:

- A \$40,000 investment to allow the establishment of a Mental Health & Wellbeing Centre within Macedon Ranges Health.
- Joint major sponsor of the Macedon Ranges Business Excellence awards along with Romsey, Lancefield and Kyneton Bendigo Bank branches, encouraging small to medium businesses within our region.
- Establishment of a Disaster Relief Fund to be instigated in association with Macedon Ranges Shire Council should a disaster be declared in our region.
- Awarding of another three-year tertiary scholarship to a deserving local student and funding another secondary student to attend national Magic Moments summit in Sydney.
- A raft of other grants and financial support offered to a wide range of sporting and cultural groups across our region.

As a shareholder of Macedon Ranges Community Enterprises Ltd you can be proud of the benefits that the success of the Gisborne & District **Community Bank**[®] Branch generates for our region. I encourage you to bank with our branch and spread the word to friends and family so we can continue to grow our business and the benefits this provides Gisborne and the surrounding district.

Graham Stewart
Chairman

Macedon Ranges Community Enterprises Ltd
PO Box 757, Gisborne VIC 3437 **ABN** 57 130 493 499
Directors: Graham Stewart, Gary McSwain, Brian Collins,
Paul Crothers, Karen Clifford, Adam McKie, Andrew Nicoll, Lauren
Andrews. Non Directors: Corinne Shaddock.

Mental Health Hub for Macedon Ranges Health.

Improving mental health and wellbeing is an urgent priority for the Macedon Ranges. As a result, Macedon Ranges Health (MRH) will be opening a new Mental Health & Wellbeing Hub at the MRH Centre in Lyell Street, Gisborne. Work commenced on the \$80,000 project in August and the new hub is expected to open in October 2017.

The hub will comprise four new consulting rooms and a meeting space to expand the delivery of counselling, psychology, social work and family violence programs offered in the centre. The hub will also support the delivery of workshops, classes and community programs to support better mental health and social inclusion across the region.

Gisborne & District **Community Bank**[®] Branch contributed \$40,000 towards the new Mental Health & Wellbeing Hub. Chairman Graham Stewart said the significant investment reflects the importance of the project to our community. "Individual wellbeing is vital for the wellbeing and success of our community as a whole. We are privileged to be able to contribute to this health sector by supporting our local community health provider, Macedon Ranges Health, in delivering additional mental health and wellbeing services to our area," he added.

Macedon Ranges Health CEO Don Tidbury said, "The organisation is very grateful for the ongoing generous support Bendigo Bank has provided to assist MRH to support the

vulnerable and the aged in our community." In addition to the new \$40,000 investment, the branch donated a Toyota commuter bus to Macedon Ranges Health in 2015 that is used daily to bring frail and elderly persons to the centre for programs and services and take residents of The Oaks Aged Care into the community. It has also been the major sponsor of MRH's annual Colour Run since the community event began in 2015.



IT Upgrade for Fire Brigade.

Riddells Creek Fire Brigade purchased new computer screens and a new printer in July thanks to a \$900 branch community investment. Captain Tom Morley said the brigade is very grateful for the bank's support. "The new IT equipment has better positioned the brigade to create and print community educational information, operational mapping and briefing for fires and controlled burns, and reduced our reliance on members' personal computers," he added.

Chairman Graham Stewart visited the fire station to view the new equipment and thank the volunteers for their service to the community. "Riddells Creek Fire Brigade does so much for our community. It is a privilege for us to be able to support them through our community investment program," he said.

Gisborne & District **Community Bank**[®] Branch is a strong supporter of local emergency services. We funded new chainsaws for the Mt Macedon Fire Brigade in 2015, iPads for Gisborne SES in 2014 and an all-terrain wheeled stretcher in 2016.



Making great things happen.

When you choose to bank with us, great outcomes – as determined by your local community – are the result.

That's the power of community banking.

Drop into our branch at 11 Nexus Way, Gisborne or phone 5420 7210.



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Gisborne & District **Community Bank**[®] Branch

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Community Investment Testimonial: Macedon Ranges Music Festival.

Just under 1,000 punters gathered on 4 March at the Macedon Ranges Music Festival's new home of the Gisborne Steam Park to witness a line-up that featured Stonefield, Lloyd Spiegel, David Spry and Matt Borg trio accompanied by a long list of local acts.

The day also showcased a Youth Stage which saw 15 young acts battle it out in the heat.

The \$2,000 grant received from Bendigo Bank covered the majority of the cost of hiring a professional main stage. This was very important for the Festival as it had a great effect on the quality of sound, performance and overall presentation. Having this stage will also be more attractive for potential performers who know we have the necessary facilities for high quality acts.

Thank you for your support!

J. O'Hare
Festival Director



Scholarship update.

As our business grows, we have been able to extend our scholarship program for talented local youth. At the beginning of the year we awarded our 2017 university scholarship to Eshe Lane of New Gisborne. The bursary is worth up to \$15,000 over three years. Eshe completed Gisborne Secondary College last year and is now studying Public Health/Global Studies at Australian Catholic University. She is also doing a Diploma in Spanish.

Eshe is the branch's fourth university scholarship student. Moyra O'Donoghue (2014) is due to complete her Education studies at La Trobe Bendigo this year, Jessica Li (2015) is in her third year of Science at La Trobe Bendigo, and Kirsten Lanyon (2016) is in her second year of a Bachelor of Human Services at La Trobe Bundoora.



The branch will offer another tertiary scholarship in 2018 and plans to broaden the eligibility to both university and TAFE. Details will be available by November.

This year we introduced a scholarship for a local youth to attend the Magic Moments Youth Leadership and Business Summit. This is a five-day annual camp attended by over 200 people aged 12-21. Gisborne Secondary College Year 11 student Polly Reid was awarded the scholarship and attended

Eshe Lane – 2017 University Scholarship Student.

the Magic Moments Youth Leadership and Business Summit in Sydney in July.

Polly shared:

“At the summit, I had the opportunity to hear guest speakers and participate in activities covering a range of topics and skills including leadership, financial literacy, communication, physical and mental health and gender equality. In between the seminars, we completed team activities and challenges, my favourite of which was to design and pitch a business to a panel of entrepreneurs.

Along with the valuable organised activities, one of the highlights of the experience for me was the chance to become friends with many incredible people from all over the world and learn about their diverse experiences. I would like to thank the Gisborne & District **Community Bank**® Branch for their generous sponsorship of my travel and camp experience, and everyone else who made my attendance possible.”

Polly Reid, Year 11



Polly Reid at the July Board meeting.

Business Awards.

We recognise that local businesses are vital to the success of our community and therefore sponsored the Macedon Ranges Business Excellence Awards again this year. Bendigo Bank was impressed to see ten businesses from our area be selected as finalists and six of them win awards. Special congratulations to Andrew Towner of Braeside Mt Macedon Country Retreat that was named '2017 Business of the Year'.

Local 2017 Bendigo Bank Macedon Ranges Business Excellence Award Winners

- Braeside Mt Macedon Country Retreat – 2017 Business of the Year, Excellence in Tourism
- Cool Clutch – Excellence in Customer Service, Excellence in Retail, runner up Business of the Year.
- 3 Little Pigs – Excellence in Hospitality.



Suzanne Carroll of Cool Clutch with Jane Lincoln at the awards' night.



- Neal St Medical Centre – Excellence in Professional Services
- True Intent Building Services – Excellence in Trades, Construction and Manufacturing
- Macedon Ranges Health – Not for Profit/Public Sector Award.

We congratulate the local people behind these businesses for their significant achievement and thank them for their contribution to our community.



Andrew Towner of Braeside Mt Macedon with Jane Lincoln at the branch.

Community infrastructure investment.

Play at Ross Watt Reserve in New Gisborne reached new heights this year with a rope-climbing frame suitable for all ages installed in March.

In December 2016 New Gisborne Tennis Club received a community investment of \$5,900 for new playground

equipment at the reserve next to the courts. The club combined the funds with a Shire Community Funding Scheme grant to purchase this major piece of new equipment.

New Gisborne Tennis Club Secretary Robyn Johnston said the equipment has invigorated the ageing reserve and benefitted the tennis club, neighbouring Chessy Park, and New Gisborne Primary School that uses the reserve for Physical Education.

The branch is delighted to have helped upgrade another community space that will be enjoyed by local residents for years to come. Other community infrastructure projects the branch has enabled include a double flying fox at Lions Memorial Park in Riddells Creek, a lighting upgrade and electronic scoreboard at Gardiner Reserve and the pavilion at the Regional Netball Complex in New Gisborne.





YOU'RE INVITED.

Spring 2017 Community Investment Evening

Gisborne & District **Community Bank**[®] Branch is proud to be investing in a range of local clubs and initiatives in its Spring 2017 community investment round.

Come hear representatives of recipient groups speak about the projects the bank will be supporting and see how our branch is making great things happen in our community.

When: Monday 20 November

Time: 7:30pm

Where: Gisborne Church of Christ, Saunders Road

RSVP: by Thursday 16 November to 5420 7210 or GisborneMailbox@bendigobank.com.au

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Gisborne & District **Community Bank**[®] Branch

Director profile: Adam Mckie.



Adam Mckie and his family moved to the Macedon Ranges in 2015 having previously resided in the CBD. He has a combined Business Management/Marketing degree and has been self-employed for the past 12 years and is a trained mediator. Currently, Adam manages a portfolio of properties that includes residential, industrial and commercial sites across selected Melbourne suburbs.

Adam also runs a small consulting company that has provided strategic leadership across Oceania and Asia to multinationals in many sectors including Mining and Resources, Banking, Retail Government and Telecommunications. In 2012 Adam was sponsored by Rotary to attend a Group Study Exchange in Central California (Silicon Valley). Adam's interests include playing golf, squash, stair climbing and travel. Adam has visited all seven continents including travelling to Antarctica.

Adam shared:

"Moving to the Macedon Ranges back in 2015 I knew I wanted to get involved in something new and exciting. However, I didn't know anyone let alone where to start. I had heard of the **Community Bank**[®] concept so I did my research and set myself to learn about the Bendigo Bank and its franchise model where the Board is comprised of volunteer Directors.

I met with the Board of Gisborne & District **Community Bank**[®] company and became a Director in December 2015.

Each Board member gives their time so generously to be involved in various local clubs, events and initiatives. As a Director we get to hear so many wonderful stories at our community investment events from so many service organisations and people making a difference locally. I have also had the pleasure of observing our branch staff delight our customers."



Staff news.

Branch Manager Jane Lincoln

Directors and staff welcomed Jane Lincoln as our new Branch Manager in March.

Jane was most recently the Branch Manager of Trentham **Community Bank**[®] Branch and shared, "I'm so inspired by being a part of the Bendigo Bank **Community Bank**[®] network. In the things

that matter, we're much Bigger than a bank and I'm thrilled to have the opportunity to invest our point of difference in the Gisborne & District community. I encourage all our shareholders to make the most of their investment by coming to the branch to see how we can support your personal and business financial needs."



Director news.

Lauren Andrews joined our volunteer Board of Directors in late 2016.

Barry Mullen and Maurice Bourke retired from the Board in 2016 and Robert Paterson in mid-2017. All three men were Directors from the **Community Bank**[®] company's establishment and we thank them for their significant contribution to the success of our branch and our community.



Shares now available.

Shares are now available in Macedon Ranges Community Enterprises Ltd, the company which operates our locally owned Gisborne & District **Community Bank**[®] Branch.

With over 200 shareholders today, visit www.bendigobank.com.au/gisborne and select 'Trading Shares (LMV)' if you're interested in learning more about buying shares in our company.

Contact Gary McSwain on 0439 703 530 to register your interest.

Macedon Ranges Community Enterprises Ltd

This is general information only. It is not intended to be relied on as advice to potential investors and does not take into account the investment objectives, financial situation or needs of any particular investor. You should consider whether such an investment is appropriate for you and consult your professional advisor before making any investment decision. Macedon Ranges Community Enterprises Ltd ABN 57 130 493 499 A2708 8101 (371129_v4) (18/09/2017)

Gisborne & District Community Bank[®] Branch

11 Nexus Way, Gisborne VIC 3437 Phone: 5420 7210 Website: www.bendigobank.com.au/gisborne

Opening hours: Monday to Friday 9.30am – 5.00pm and Saturday mornings 9.00am – 12 noon

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